

Fearfully And Wonderfully Made

by Agnes Liu, *Deacon*

With Oscar nominations to be announced in a couple of days, I'm excited to find out which movies and their respective cast and production members will receive that recognition. Along that line, after each movie, there's a long list of credits, of names of people who each had a part in producing that prized work. Each of us is a prized work of God: Psalm 139:13, 14 *"For you created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*



My spiritual journey leading up to my decision to receive Jesus and becoming a member of the family of God, the Father, Jesus, the Son and the Holy Spirit is also credited to many people. Bible and Sunday School teachers, Bible study leaders, fellowship participants, congregation members who touched my life, and Christian friends who bore witness to me of Christ's love, acceptance and forgiveness. Each person took time and effort to be present, prepared the material diligently with the Holy Spirit's guidance, and lovingly shared it with encouragement and support. I sensed I was important and worthy of their time spent with me. Their love empowered me to work out my salvation and identity in Christ, that I am a precious child of God, who is the almighty creator of heaven and earth.

Encouragement can be so powerful in directing our perspective toward following Christ. To be in community with fellow believers can strengthen our bond of love such that we are hopeful, joyful and secure in our true identity in Christ. There's real power when we come together as a community of worshippers and believers of Christ. In Hebrews 10:24, 25: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as we see the Day approaching."*

I can be a real homebody, staying home and just relaxing and not wanting to reach out. Our enemy, Satan, who wants us to think we're autonomous, lures us to self-dependency. But God created us for community, for each other and not to be alone. I do believe there is a much better chance that I can be impactful and grow when I'm with others than when I'm by myself. We each have strengths, gifts, talents, and a personality from God that's uniquely you and beneficial to others. Let's get out and exercise them! Go to Sunday worship, participate in a small group, help with SERVE, play some table tennis, or join a Bible Study; start a conversation with someone. You can be a blessing and someone can be a blessing to you!

Welcome to Journey!

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Order of Service

January 21st, 2024

Welcome & Call To Worship Elder Josh
Worship Ted & Congregation
Sermon **Choose Abundant Life** Pastor Ewin
Song of Response Ted & Congregation
Benediction Pastor Phil

Sermon Outline:

Pastor Ewin • Sanctity of Life Sunday

13 For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well—Psalm 139:13-14, ESV

Three Ways We Know God Created Us As His Living Masterpieces For Abundant Life

1. The _____ of God's creation was human life
For You formed my inward parts...—13a • God created man in His own image...—Gen 1:26a
2. The _____ in which we're made is unique
...knitted me together in my mother's womb...—13b • then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature—Gen 2:7
3. The _____ we're made from is God's own image
I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...—14a • So God made man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them —Gen 1:27

Questions for discussion and reflection:

1. How does our heavenly Father teach us to value life in Psalm 139?
2. God's word teaches that children are a gift, and that each life is to be lived abundantly. What are some cultural trends that twist that teaching?
3. What happens when a culture puts a low price tag on life? Where do you see this today? What are some practical things you can do to highlight the true worth of people made in God's image?
4. How can you discern between conviction and condemnation? What role does the Cross play in the difference between the two? How can you use this distinction to defend yourself & others from the devil's fiery darts?
5. Would you pray for the ending of infanticide in our city, state, nation, and world so that God may be worshipfully praised for the life that he gives.
6. Pray for those who have had abortions, or who are considering one. Pray that they would draw near to God in the midst of their pain to find grace, mercy, and comfort from the Holy Spirit.

Ways to get involved:

Today: Directory Available, only for personal and ministry use, no business.

For announcements: to post an announcement for an upcoming Sunday, send them to roger@journeyec.org and amy@journeyec.org by Tuesday, 10pm.


1/31: Basketball: invite friends, play hard and clean, and be a gracious testimony.

2/2–2/4: Youth Winter Retreat (Forest Home, Ojai Valley) please pray for our six youth and three counselors attending this retreat.

2/4: Scouts Day: let's welcome Troop 1134 as they lead us in honoring our flag.

2/11: Bible Hour begins with a new topic of Hermeneutics (twice a month, 1st and 3rd Sundays). Thank you Moon for leading us in the study of the book of Job!

2/11: Lunar New Year Lunch: save the date for this special lunch. If you'd like to help, please contact Moon at moonhoanglee@gmail.com.

2/11: Super Bowl of Love & Listening Workshop (after lunch, for ages 9 to 99) Pastor Phil will lead a communications workshop to help you with work, family, and friendships. All welcome, not just couples. 

2/18: Help Journey be more welcoming (12-12:45): everyone is encouraged to join us (mandatory for officers) for an enjoyable training, different from last year.

2/25: Baptism & Membership Class (12:00-2:30): if interested in professing your faith or joining Journey's mission on Easter, email amy@journeyec.org.



Thank you, Elder Phil & Shirley, for hosting the Young Adults!

Deacons—Agnes Liu, Alan Hung, Allie Wong, Darryl Mu, Jeff Way, Pat Leung, Paulah Wong, Shirley Chun, Teresa Jue, Valerie Yee, Wesley Lin

Elders—Cliff Char, Hiro Kono, Joshua Cain, Peter Leung, Phil Jen Kin, Rick Chou, Ron Jue, Victor Wong

Staff

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